

BARE TORTURE TACTICS

Varsity club initiation "ceremonies" bear a closer resemblance to the medieval torture chamber, according to charges made by the irate and articulate father of one of the boys who had to undergo a "sordid and obscene" shower room initiation at Torrance high school.

In a hard-hitting and precisely worded letter sent Tuesday to the other four members of the school board, the superintendent, the president of the P-TAs, the principal, and the local newspapers, the father exposed every detail of the lurid shower-room practices as reported to him by his son.

The following is the letter which is rocking the community:

Editor—Torrance Press.

Torrance, California,
June 3, 1953.

Judge Shidler
Pres. Torrance School Board
24 Camino de Los Colinas
Hollywood Riviera
Torrance, California.

Dear Sir:

The recent initiation of about 14 Torrance High School

boys in the Varsity Club was of such a nature as to warrant an immediate investigation by the Torrance School Board.

Torrance High School is years behind other schools, junior colleges, and universities in regard to such events. The trend today is to have the initiates do something constructive for the community, accompanied, of course, by some good natured, healthy fun. Such is not the case in Torrance. This last initiation was so sadistic and obscene that few parents will allow their letterman sons to participate in the Varsity Club once they learn the facts.

Some of the stunts during school hours were humorous and caused the boys moderate embarrassment. No one could object to them. However, the sordid details of what took place in the shower rooms after school hours are almost unbelievable.

These youngsters were eligible for the Varsity Club because of their activity in school sports. Not one is a sissy yet they were forced to undergo such painful and humiliating experiences in the shower room that all were vomiting and crying before the evening was over. It is inconceivable that Coach Graybehl could watch from the sidelines and allow these youngsters to be so abused.



... Is it worth it?

After this form of "fun" was exhausted these boys, some only 14-15 years old, were loaded into cars, taken miles from Torrance and left to hitch-hike home. Some didn't return until after midnight.

The following is a list of the most objectionable stunts performed in the shower rooms. (Apparently this site was chosen to facilitate cleaning up of the vomitus.)

- 1—Itching powder or similar irritant applied to rectum and testicles, causing excruciating pain. (If this was done to a DOG the citizens of our fair city would insist upon prosecution of the offenders.)
- 2—Adhesive tape applied to pubic hair.
- 3—Quick drying black cement applied to skin which caused severe pain when removed.
- 4—Massive doses of Ex-Lax, etc., given during school hours, resulting in hours of acute diarrhea and distress.
- 5—Marshmallows inserted in rectums and if allowed to fall out the boys were told to eat them.
- 6—Crank case oil poured over bodies and then covered with sawdust.
- 7—Various concoctions of nauseating mixtures forced down throats, and if boy was vomiting, thrown in his face.
- 8—Padded until buttocks were black and blue. (It takes but ONE misplaced blow to rupture a kidney.)

What was actually accomplished or achieved by the Varsity Club last Wednesday night? Nothing except that these new members will be allowed to take revenge on the next group of unsuspecting initiates.

There can be safe and sane initiations. Since Counselor Graybehl permits these stupid and senseless activities at the Varsity Club initiations, he should be replaced immediately or at least directed to change the entire procedures of the Club as of this date.

As a father I deplore this form of entertainment in our Torrance High School and therefore am mailing copies of this protest letter to the other four members of the Board, the Supt. of Schools, President of the P.T.A.'s, Principal Magner, and the press.

Reform is possible only when a sufficient number of intelligent and responsible citizens in the Community learn the complete and ugly truth.

No signature—Otherwise an innocent boy would be subjected to more indignation by the members of the Varsity Club.

OFFICIALS SHOCKED

Shocked school officials took action immediately. (Continued on Page 4)

Serving . . .

- TORRANCE
- LOMITA
- SHOESTRING
- HARBOR CITY
- KEYSTONE
- AVALON VILLAGE

TORRANCE PRESS

Conveniently Located at 1406 Cravens Avenue — Phone FAirfax 8-2345

5¢

Member of the Controlled Circulation Newspapers of America

100,000 READERS

Phone FAirfax 8-2345

VOLUME V

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1953—TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA

120

NUMBER 9



—Photo by Betty Risk, Jr.

FATHER PATRICK J. MCGUINNESS (left) of the Nativity Catholic Church, together with Father Paul Konosko of the St. Frances Church, assist Cardinal McIntyre at graduation services held at Junipero Serra high school in Gardena. Two local boys were among the graduates: Thomas Cassidy, 1518 Marcellina, and James Muensterman, 22937 Narbonne. Graduation was held early this year because the Cardinal wished to attend.

Thousands Tried Out New System Sunday

What was it that actually happened at the telephone company at 12:01 a.m. Sunday morning? According to Manager Richard S. Pyle many clicks and noises were heard the moment the blocking devices were removed. This meant only one thing—a lot of people had their receiver off the hook to hear the new dial tone. Pyle said that suddenly it was quiet again, indicating that curious residents were satisfied that the long-promised system was finally a reality and in working condition.

Thirty-thousand telephone calls were made within the first 24 hours of the new telephone set-up, Pyle announced.

The significance of this figure becomes apparent when compared to the 25,000 telephone calls serviced during a normal work day.

Manager Pyle stated that 850 new phones were put into service for the first time Sunday and that 285 more will be installed gradually within the next few weeks.

Nearly 15,000 Torrance and Lomita telephones were involved in the conversion to dial operation. The cutover was one of the smoothest ever made in Southern California.

The clicking of switches increased by the minute, indicating that telephone users here were quick to use the new dial system.

Manager Pyle has expressed his gratitude to all telephone subscribers for their cooperation in making the dial conversion a success.

He stated that Torrance telephone users "now have dial telephone service of the most up-to-date type.

HEADS TO MEET ON RECREATION

School board members Tuesday night extended an invitation to the city council for a further consideration of the recreation problem which has been a community concern for some time.

The question has been whether Torrance will get an efficiently administered joint city-school recreation program or whether the community will continue with an inadequate recreation program which might have to rely on a special but wasteful tax levy to finance recreation next year.

Conflict on Teachers' Salaries

Teaching and administrative salaries were under fire at the school board meeting Tuesday night in a controversy over the advisability or inadvisability of an over-all pay hike.

Dr. J. H. Hull, who had no recommendation to make at this time, expressed the need for raising the present \$3650 minimum teacher's salary to \$3800 in order to keep our salary level on the same average salary level of other nearby communities. If Torrance falls below, it will lose its drawing power which might turn into a critical matter, according to Dr. Hull, since the demand for teachers is far greater than the supply.

Judge John Shidler, president of the board, was the principal spokesman for the opposing point of view. Judge Shidler viewed with alarm the fact that not only the minimum salaries would have to be raised but all the other salary steps would have to be raised as well all up and down the line, as indicated by Dr. Hull. This step would be necessary, Hull said, in order to keep a proper financial relationship between various teaching and administrative steps as well as to provide continued incentive for the educational staff.

Judge Shidler deplored the fact that the nature of the times and the low supply of teachers dictated policy to the board instead of the matter being the other way around.

The invitation came in response to a city council request for such a meeting. The board agreed to inform the council that they would be willing to meet with them at the next general agenda meeting, Tuesday, June 16, or at any other time which the council might set.

TEEN-AGE JOB AGENCY ORGANIZED

Teenagers who are seeking job opportunities for the summer months and permanently have banded together to form the Youth Employment Service at 1628 Gramercy ave. and are waiting hopefully for interested and prospective employers to call FA 8-5368.

Classifications
Fifty youths have already signed up in a number of classifications including waitresses, stenographers, clerks, typists, law-help, baby sitters, fillers, box-boys, gas station help, and "anything," according to Bill Harlicker, Torrance high school junior and one of the organizers of the service.

Qualifications
The service is open to teenagers 13 years old and up. An attempt is being made to get more seniors to come in for interviews and fill out applications, since there has been some

ACTORS RECEIVE AWARDS

Receiver of the perpetual trophy as Torrance high school's outstanding Thespian for the year was Dwight Hanna, with Jim Crain receiving the \$200 scholarship to the Pasadena Playhouse Theater of Arts. The awards were made at the Third Annual Drama Awards Banquet held at the Civic auditorium Thursday evening.

Hanna's name will be added to that of Crain, first winner of the award, and JoAnn Benard, last year's winner.

In ceremonies presided over by Warner Smith, president of Troupe 1133 of the National Thespian Society, trophies were also presented to Bob Hopkins, best actor; Janet Williamson, best actress; Hanna and Julie

(Continued on Page 4)

Public Invited To Inspect Local Dairy

June Dairy Month is here again and we are reminded once more of the debt we owe to the proverbially contented cow. During the rest of the year we drink our milk down without giving much thought to the stages through which this product passes prior to its consumption. During this month, however, dairymen make particular efforts to open their farms to the public and explain to the visitors the important aspects of the dairy industry on which one out of every 15 families depend for a livelihood.

Ben Cluff's dairy, at 22010 Avalon Blvd., is a case in point. Ben will hold open house the first two weeks in June during which time he will be happy to have Torrance residents visit him any time during the day.

Refreshments
Refreshments of all sorts, including milk, lollipops, balloons, and chocolate milk will be served to visitors, Ben Cluff stated.

Self-Sufficient Dairy
The dairy is one of the few where the milk is produced, processed, bottled and sold on the premises or delivered directly to the home, thus insuring the highest degree of freshness possible.

Guided Tours
Ben Cluff's dairy will have guided tours for its visitors. The tours, which will include cow-milking, milk processing, bottling, and selling, will take about one hour. The dairy is open seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. till 9:30 p.m.

Chief Says Bikes Must Get License

Chief of Police John Stroh has announced that boys and girls who own bicycles must get licenses for their bikes as soon as possible if they do not already have them. The police will start picking up bicycles without a license in about two weeks.

The stores where licenses may be obtained are: Torrance Cycle and Sport's Shop, 1421 Marcellina and King's Bicycle Stores, 1689 Gramercy.

Armory Still on Agenda

Assemblyman Vincent Thomas reassured the citizens of Torrance that he will do everything in his power to see that the Torrance armory remains in the budget bill.

The 68th district assemblyman wrote a letter to the Torrance Press this week acknowledging the receipt of a petition signed by the citizens of Torrance who requested that the assemblyman make a final effort on behalf of the armory. The request was sponsored by this newspaper which has been actively campaigning for the armory since it saw the need for it about three years ago.

The following is a copy of the letter which was received:
VINCENT THOMAS
Member of Assembly, 64th Dist.
Torrance Press
1406 Cravens Avenue
Torrance, California
(Continued on Page 4)

PHONITIS NEARED ON SUNDAY MORN

Two thousand calls were registered between the hours of 12 midnight and 2 a.m. Sunday morning while normally only 200 calls go through at that time at the Torrance telephone exchange.

It seems that Torrance residents, like kids on Christmas morning, just couldn't wait to try out their new toy . . . er, telephone system. Or is it that some experimentally inclined individuals felt that the new system had to be tested to be believed—like those wet-paint signs which are such overwhelming temptations?

OPTOMETRISTS TO OPEN TORRANCE OFFICE MONDAY

Doctors J. M. Soss, A. F. Kline, and C. E. Kline, optometrists, are opening a new office in Torrance Monday, June 8, which will feature the latest in modern equipment.

The office, which will be situated at 1286 Sartori, across from Strum's department store, will be attractively furnished and have two examining rooms, two fitting booths, one visual training room and its own lens grinding laboratory. The laboratory will do its own surface grinding. Precision ground lenses will be perfected there under the personal supervision of Dr. A. F. Kline who will be in charge of the Torrance office.

Visiting hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. including Saturday. Dr. Soss, who has been established 26 years in this area, said. The latest in equipment will be on hand for eye examinations to guarantee the greatest amount of accuracy possible.

Associate Optometrist Dr. C. E. Kline is pictured on page 9.

TORRANCE PRESS OPENS COMMERCIAL PRINT SHOP



JIM PRUNER
... printer

Anniversary Celebrated At Save-Mart

"Come in and help yourself to a piece of delicious birthday cake this Saturday," urges Chuck Del Curto, owner of Sav-Mart Market at 23401 South Western Ave., (Kettler Knolls). The cake is in honor of the market anniversary which is being held from Thursday through Sunday.

According to Del Curto, the cake is only a small item on the agenda, as orchids have been planned for the ladies, penny banks and surprises galore for the children, and tremendous savings in all departments are being featured in honor of the event.

"We only have anniversaries once a year," said Del Curto, "so come on in and help us celebrate!"

Going into operation as of today is the Torrance Printing Company, a new addition to the Torrance Press. The shop which is right next door to the Press at 1406 Cravens ave. will do letter press printing including, among other things, business forms, stationery, and brochures. Jim Pruner will operate the shop.

Pruner is as seasoned a printer as they possibly come. He was literally born in a print shop and comes from a family of newspaper people. His mother and father, who are still living, are perhaps the only two left of the South Dakota pioneer newspaper people.

Pruner's life trade has been printing. Together with his father, he owned publications in Iowa and South Dakota. He was recently connected with McKeever Press in Aberdeen, one of South Dakota's largest commercial printers. For the past eight years he has been plant superintendent of the "Belle Fourch Bee," one of the best and oldest newspapers in western South Dakota. During the last three years Pruner worked for the Press Telegram in Long Beach.

Like his father and his mother before him, Jim and his wife, Vi, are a printing team. "She will assist me in the shop," Pruner

INDIAN PASSES AWAY

Funeral services were held Monday for Lee Ambrosio Olwares, eight-generation descendant of a San Capistrano Indian tribe.

Rosary was recited at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Niland's Chapel of the Flowers. The funeral was held at 8 a.m. Monday in St. Catherine La Bours Church, Lawndale. Olwares died at a Torrance hospital last Friday. He was a resident of El Nido since 1921 and was a retired employee of the Union Oil Company.

Wanted High School Boys Found Here

Sometimes it takes a police officer to find two wanted high school boys. Sometimes a detective has to be alerted.

In this particular instance all it took was a little ingenuity and the case was solved.

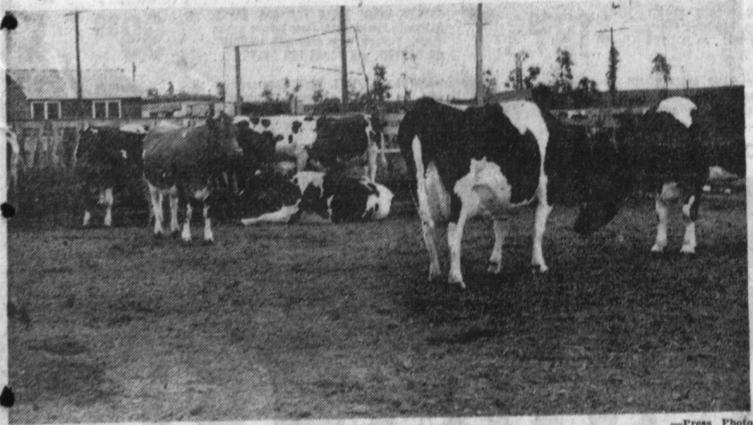
Sure Bite Co. of 22536 Halldale, wanted two high school boys for work. Like every effective method, the company used the simplest to get what it wanted. He placed the following ad in the Torrance Classified section:

WANTED: 2 high school boys. Out of school. Steady job. Phone Torrance 1609

Of course the company got what it wanted immediately. Why not enjoy such results yourself!



DR. J. M. SOSS
... Optometrist



—Press Photo
THESE ARE BUT A FEW of the 180 cows which visitors may see at the Ben Cluff Dairy, 22010 S. Avalon Blvd., during its open house the first two weeks of June. This being June Dairy Month, Ben Cluff has invited the public to come to his dairy any time these two weeks and see how the milk is processed right on the premises from the initial milking to the eventual selling.

Dairies Hold Open House In June